

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a range for the criterion value. See page 20, lines 8 to 10 of the application. By this amendment, the upper limit weight percentage of remaining solvent when peeled is at most 50 wt.%, and is within the maximum ranges of 5 to 30 wt. % and 20 to 50 wt.%.

Applicant submits that this amendment to claim 1 does not raise any new issues for consideration at this time because the Examiner has considered argumentation directed to the solvent ranges of amended claim 1 (paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the Final Office Action). Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Beginning at page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected all claims as obvious over Takeda in view of Tasaka et al. Takeda is cited as teaching that there are discrete ranges of solvent levels where quality of the film is different, and that good results are achieved at solvent levels of less than 40% and between 70 – 120%. Tasaka et al is cited for a similar teaching with solvent level of 5 – 150%. Further, the Examiner submits that the secondary reference exemplifies a solvent level of 5%. In addition, the Examiner has stated that claim 1 does not clearly set forth an upper limit of 50%.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to clearly set forth two numerical ranges, including an upper limit of 50 wt%. As explained below, the prior art as cited, if anything, teaches away from the claimed weight percentage of remaining solvent ranges. Applicants have discovered, unexpectedly, the importance of their claimed solvent ranges based on criterion

measure when peeling force is at the maximum, in combination with all of the other parameters of claim 1, in providing film of improved uniform thickness and optical isotropy for optoelectronic use.

The "invention" of Takeda is to employ a remaining solvent content at peeling of at least 70% (see, e.g., paragraph [0011] in the Summary of the Invention section, as well as paragraph [0072]), with exemplification of 95 to 105%, clearly teaching away from the present invention. The "below 40%" referenced by the Examiner is with respect to a prior art statement by Takeda (see paragraph [0004] in the Background of the Invention section). But Takeda does not provide details of this prior art, so it is impossible to compare it with Applicant's overall invention.

In this regard, Applicant notes initially that it is unclear whether the remaining solvent content of paragraph [0004] of Takeda means a remaining solvent content in view of a drying standard or in view of a film which is not dried.

Further, Takeda teaches that if the remaining film solvent content exceeds 40 %, the peeled web is not good (see lines 4-8 in paragraph [0004]), but if the remaining film solvent content is in the range of 70 % to 120 %, the peeled web is good (see paragraph [0072]). However, if this remaining solvent content is based on a drying standard, Takeda does not take into consideration the peeling force as in the present invention, so Takeda is different from present claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that "the criterion" defined in the claim 1 is not related to the "remaining solvent content" as suggested by Takeda. Therefore, the "remaining solvent

content" of paragraph [0004] of Takeda does not determine the claimed "criterion" and "range of remaining solvent".

Tasaka et al also teaches away from the present invention. Although a broad range of remaining solvent may be suggested, in the EXAMPLES, high amounts of remaining solvent at peeling are set forth. See Example 1 where residual solvent at peeling is 80 wt.% (col. 32, line 24); Example 2 at col. 33, line 16 (90%); Example 3 at col. 34, line 10 (90%) and Example 8 at col. 39, line 17 (90%).

Applicant notes that Tasaka calculates the remaining solvent content with a drying standard in consideration of Tasaka's disclosure at col. 42 line 58. However, Tasaka is not concerned with "when a peeling force for peeling said gel-like film is at the maximum ... as a criterion" Accordingly, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine Takeda and Tasaka, one would not reach claimed remaining solvent range represented by the criterion measure.

Further, Applicant notes that the Examiner considers that Tasaka exemplifies a solvent level of 5%. Applicant searched for an Example with the disclosure of a "solvent level of 5%", but could not find any disclosure of an Example related to a "solvent level of 5%". Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the Example in Tasaka disclosing this feature.

Thus, even with the combination of references, the clear teaching in the prior art is to employ remaining solvent concentrations at film peeling of significantly more than 50% by weight. The present invention moves in the opposite direction from this prior art, and therefore,

is unobvious in its nature. Further, the prior art does not disclose determination of a criterion measure of weight percentage of remaining solvent when peeling force for peeling the gel-like film is at the maximum.

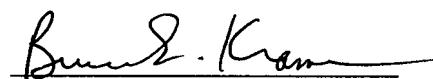
Therefore, Applicant submits that the present invention is not obvious over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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